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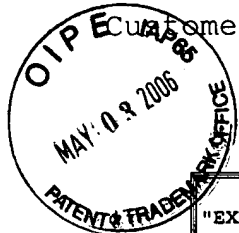
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 129843.1022

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Customer No. 60148

1

Serial No. 09/970,389



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Express Mail Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10
"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EL 994538475 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: May 3, 2006

I, Anne Ziegler, hereby certify that this paper (along with any papers and fees referred to as being attached or enclosed or actually enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above, with sufficient postage, and is addressed as follows:

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Anne Ziegler

Signature of person mailing paper

In re Application of: Donald J. Merkley et al.
Serial No.: 09/970,389
Filing Date: October 2, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: Mark Halpern
For: Method and Apparatus for Reducing
Impurities in Cellulose Fibers for
Manufacture of Fiber Reinforced
Cement Composite Materials

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED February 3, 2006**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 129843.1022
Customer No. 60148

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
Serial No. 09/970,389

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are:

- a postcard acknowledgment of receipt of papers by the Patent Office;
- this Transmittal Sheet (3 pgs.);
- Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed February 3, 2006 (12 pgs.);

Please return the acknowledgment postcard.

						LARGE ENTITY	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total Claims	24	Minus	67	0		\$50=	\$0
Independent Claims	4	Minus	6	0		\$200=	\$0
						TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	\$0

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 129843.1022
Customer No. 60148

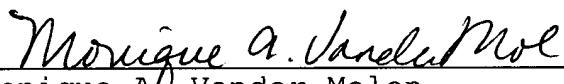
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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
Serial No. 09/970,389

No fees are believed to be due at this time. To the extent that any further fees, whatsoever, are required at any time during prosecution of this application, including petition and extension fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including any under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 07-0153 of Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP (Dallas) and reference Attorney Docket No. 129843.1022. Please credit any overpayments to this same Deposit Account.

Please direct all correspondence to the practitioner listed below at Customer No. 60148.

Respectfully submitted,


Monique A. Vander Molen
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Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
Thanksgiving Tower
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Telephone: 214.999.3000
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ATTORNEY/AGENT FOR APPLICANT
May 3, 2006

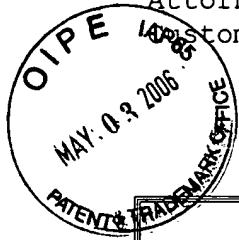
Attorney No. HARD1.015A (129843-1022)

Customer No. 60148

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
APPLICATION NO. 09/970,389

1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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Composite Materials

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
OFFICE ACTION MAILED February 3, 2006**

Dear Sir:

The Office Action mailed February 3, 2006, established a three-month shortened statutory time period to respond.

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response and respectfully requests entry of the amendment set forth herein and consideration of the remarks provided with this paper as provided in:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3;

Remarks begin on page 14;

Conclusion begins on page 18 of this paper, and

Appendix at the end of this response providing one reference.